

It is a melancholy fact that of the complete range of malignant disease in various parts of the body, only a very small group come within the scope of radiation therapy, and these are all easily accessible, and in most cases are lesions of the surface of the body or organs in easily accessible parts.

The survey demonstrates very clearly the great benefits which can be obtained by the concentration of all forms of radiation treatment in one centre, with adequate staff and facilities for research. It also reveals the great importance of a complete and effective follow-up system in all cases which have been treated at the centre.

The tabular results for cancer in various sites are given in full detail, and show a progressive improvement as a result of better technique, better methods of approach, and better facilities for measuring the amount of radiation given throughout the tumour area. The statistics have obviously been very accurately compiled, and actuarial assistance has been obtained in making the tables as accurate as possible.

It is impossible in a short revue of this report to summarize even shortly the results which have been obtained at this centre. Part I is a general survey which is intended for the general reader and for the practitioner who wishes to obtain a general survey of the present position in regard to the treatment of cancer by radiation. Part II is a detailed report for medical readers, and particularly for those engaged in the treatment of cancer; while Part III is a ten-year evaluation period for the years 1932-43, a most interesting study. The report is well worth studying by those consultants and specialists who may be called upon to employ radium from time to time in the treatment of the various forms of cancer.

It is gratifying to note that so much insistence is placed on the need for further research as an essential part of the constant effort to improve the methods of treatment.

The report may also prove of considerable value to the educated layman, who wants to know more of the facts about cancer and the modern methods of treatment by radiation.

Finally, the importance of early recognition of cancer is stressed as being of vital importance, and the tables show conclusively that the survival rate for the treatment of early cancer is high, and that most early cancers in accessible sites are curable.

The book is well produced. The diagrams and tables are clear and easily understood, while the type is good. This is definitely a book to be recommended to all members of the medical profession, since to all of us falls the task of dealing with cancer in some form or other in the course of our normal routine work.

F. P. M.

GYNÆCOLOGICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY. By P. M. F. Bishop. Pp. 133.

E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 7s. 6d.

THIS book is an excellent introduction to a complicated subject, and one which could be read by every final-year medical student and general practitioner with great benefit. The results of recent work are put forward in a most attractive and easily understood style, and throughout the book the importance of excluding pathology before using hormone therapy is stressed. C. H. G. M.

PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE. By Desmond Curran, M.B., F.R.C.P., D.P.M., and Eric Gullmann, M.D., M.R.C.P. Foreword by J. J. Conybeare, M.C., D.M.(Oxon), F.R.C.P. Second Edition. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd.

THIS excellent book has now reached its second edition. Anyone who had the privilege of reading the original book could have predicted a long and useful life for it. The book is a short one, some 240-odd pages, and it will therefore be appreciated that certain chapters have to be frequently rewritten to keep them up to date. The chapters on constitutional factors and psychopathic personalities, affective and hysterical syndromes, have been enlarged and rewritten. The chapter on obsessional psychosis is much more complete and is a valuable addition to the book. Physical methods in treatment of various psychological states have been included.

The book is only claimed to be an introduction to the subject, and it fulfils this claim. It requires careful reading and most subjects have been covered. A list of references is appended, indicating the larger works which should be consulted for more detailed study. The book is enhanced by its illustration of patients, specimens, and diagrams. Dr. Conybeare's foreword once

more emphasises the many cases of functional nervous disorders presenting symptoms of a physical kind and the importance of such a book as this helps in their diagnosis. The book can be recommended to both student and practitioner with confidence. H. H. S.

AIDS TO DERMATOLOGY. By R. M. B. MacKenna, M.A., M.D., B.Ch. (Camb.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.). Third Edition. Pp. viii + 309, with 7 figs. Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 6s.

For the first time since the original publication of this book in 1929, dermatology is dealt with alone; and a book dealing with venereal diseases will soon be published as a separate volume.

This book, published in January, 1946, has been fully revised up to that date. The dermatitis-eczema complex is well set out and should prove helpful to the student in obtaining a clear conception of this common skin reaction. The newer treatments for the coccal and parasitic infections are included.

If criticism of this excellent book were to be offered, it would be that for the student and general practitioner it is much too comprehensive. Many very rare diseases are mentioned—some admittedly in small print—but in view of the minor part which is unfortunately allocated to dermatology in most final examinations, it might safely be reduced to include only the really common skin diseases.

Of necessity, too, presumably on account of the price of the book, only seven figures are included; but it is a pity that such a pictorial subject as dermatology should have to be dealt with in book form without the aid of illustrations. R. H.

SURGERY OF THE HAND. By R. M. Handfield-Jones, M.C., M.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. 164. 20s.

To all those in the profession who treat infections and injuries of the hand, this book will provide a valuable addition to their library. Based as it is on the well-known treatise of Kanavel, anatomy receives its due recognition. In dealing with infections, it is stated that the presence of pus and its exact anatomical location must be known before accurate treatment can be carried out. Stress is laid upon general anaesthesia and an air-compression tourniquet to give a bloodless operation field. Indications for penicillin therapy are outlined. The author's twelve principles in dealing with infections of the hand are indeed classical. One can only say that if they were followed in every case, then dysfunction and disability of the hand and fingers would be a very much rarer phenomenon than it is at present.

Fractures, foreign bodies, amputations, and burns are also dealt with adequately. In connection with burns, early skin grafting is advocated. There is a short account of congenital and acquired defects and of tumours. The main value of the book, however, is in its treatment of infections, which is as the author intended.

I have nothing but praise for this well-written and fully illustrated volume. It is the production of a man who has made a special study of the restoration of function of the hand and fingers. I can recommend its perusal to all those who wield the scalpel on nature's most complex mechanism in this industrial and compensation-conscious age. E. W. McM.

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT LIFE IN HEALTH AND DISEASE. By W. S. Craig, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.S.E. Pp. 667. 1946. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 25s.

This book is aptly described as a study in social paediatrics. It is to a large extent historical, and deals with the evolution of those special needs of childhood, from the days when neither their health nor their education were the concern of any, through the period of exploitation of child labour in mines, mills, and the chimneys, up to the present day. Considerable space is devoted to the care of the child in war-time. The legislation dealing specially with child and adolescent welfare is fully discussed. The book is excellently illustrated throughout.

Mr. Winston Churchill's famous words, "It is only from the past that one can judge the